



Enclosure 6a  
February 9, 2021



RHODE  
ISLAND

# Standards and Curriculum Updates

February 9, 2020



**RIDE** Rhode Island  
Department  
of Education

# RIDE Mission and Vision

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## RIDE Mission

The mission of the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) is threefold:

1. To lead and support local education agencies (LEAs), schools, and communities through a unified, strategic direction for education in the state.
2. To use policy, advocacy, and governance structures to create an environment that advances opportunities for all students.
3. To maintain collaboration and efficiency in the department that enables innovation, agility, and continuous learning.

## RIDE Vision

RIDE creates conditions for every Rhode Island student to think critically and collaboratively, and act as a creative, self-motivated, culturally and globally competent learner. Rhode Island students are prepared to lead fulfilling and productive lives, succeed in academic and employment settings, and contribute meaningfully to society.

# RIDE Priorities

Guiding its mission and vision are the following priorities:

- **Equity**
- **Excellence in Learning**
- **Engaged Communities**
- **World Class Talent**
- **Governance Structures**

In prioritizing “Excellence in Learning,” in particular, RIDE is committed to providing support and resources that allow every LEA to adopt and implement high-quality curricular materials.

View commitments aligned to each priority [here](#).



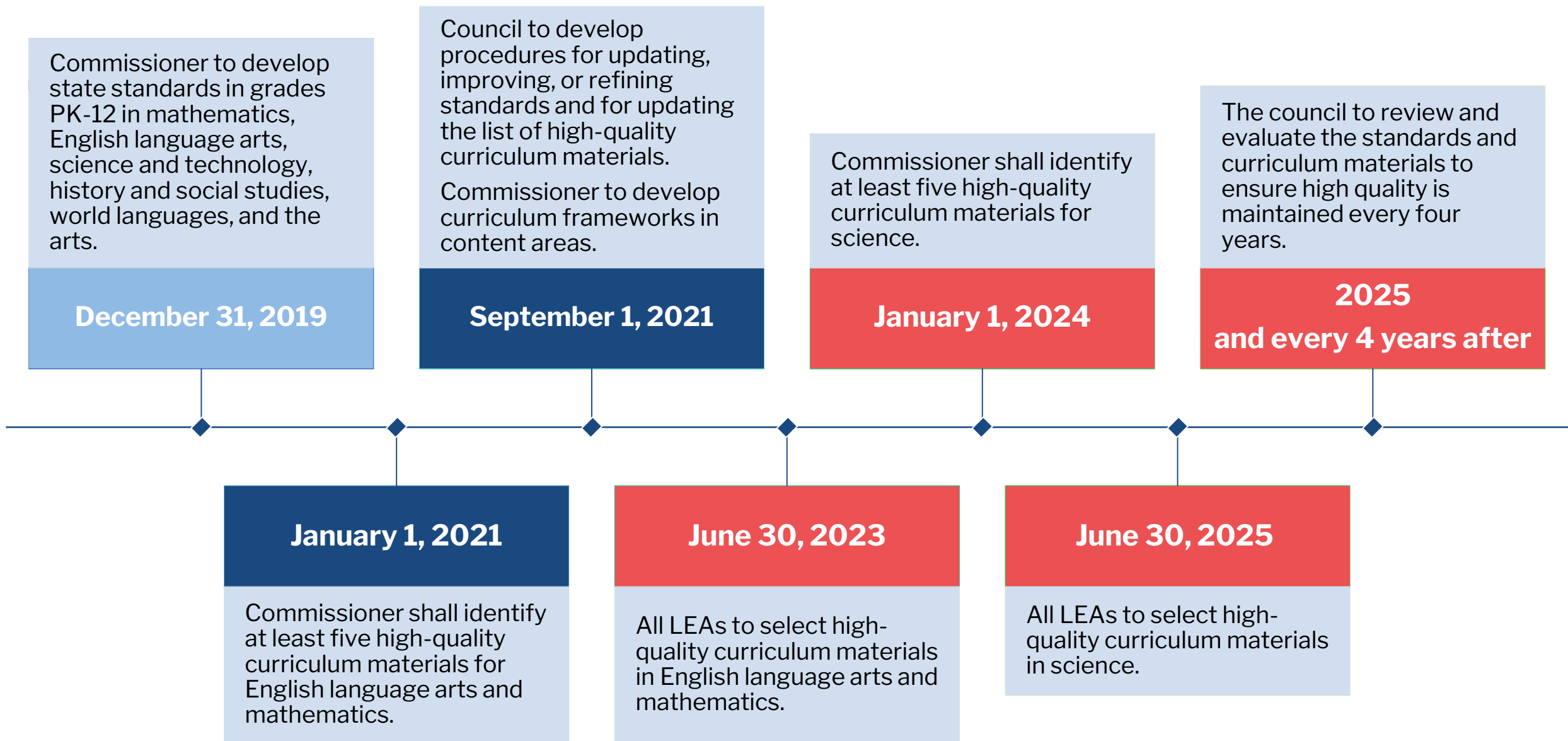
# Legislative Mandates

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RIDE's 2021-2025 strategic plan, in part, responds to legislation passed by [Rhode Island lawmakers in 2019](#) requiring the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) to:

- Develop statewide academic standards and curriculum frameworks for mathematics, English language arts (ELA), and science;
- Identify at least five examples of high-quality curriculum and materials for these core subjects; and
- Support school systems in the selection and implementation of curriculum materials.

Moreover, legislation requires 100 percent of LEAs statewide to adopt high-quality curriculum materials in K-12 schools that are aligned with academic standards, with curriculum frameworks, and with statewide standardized tests where applicable. This must be completed by June 2023 for ELA and math and by June 2025 for science.

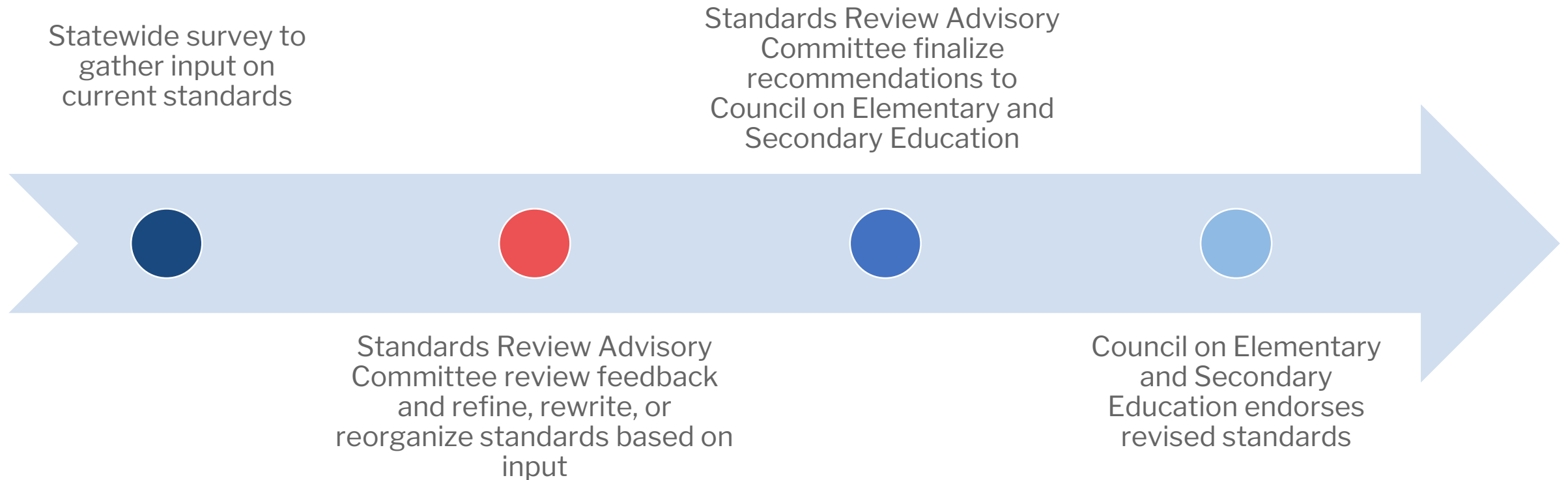


# Academic Standards






# Academic Standards

RIDE is responsible for instituting a process to develop statewide academic standards for the core subjects of mathematics, ELA, science and technology, history and social studies, world languages, and the arts. It must also put into place a process to review and update the standards every four years thereafter.







# Academic Standards

## To date, RIDE has:

-  Completed a 2019 initial review process of standards in all required subjects
-  Developed a standards revision process that includes stakeholder engagement
-  Issued statewide surveys to receive public feedback on the current ELA, social studies, and math academic standards

## This year, RIDE will:

-  Convene content advisors to review standards and guide any revisions to ELA and math standards
-  Introduce new social studies standards for review
-  Propose any revisions in ELA and math to the Council in the spring
-  Align high school math standards with high school course expectations in Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II



# High-Quality Curriculum



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# High-Quality Curriculum Matters

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- **Students who have access to high-quality curricular materials and to great teachers are better positioned for lifelong success.** Thoughtful implementation of high-quality curricular materials is among the best strategies to promote equity for all students. According to [a study by the Center for American Progress](#), improving the quality of curriculum can be 40 times more cost-effective at improving achievement than reducing class size.
- **High-quality curricular materials boost teachers' effectiveness.** School systems that implement high-quality curricular materials provide their teachers with the tools they need to be successful, rather than having them create their own.
- **Local communities are empowered to make decisions about learning for their unique students.** Though the state sets high expectations, school systems are not mandated to choose specific programs. The state provides guidance and a comprehensive list of vetted materials, but school system is responsible for engaging stakeholders in the selection of a high-quality curriculum that meets the needs of their unique students and for implementing it with fidelity.

# Curriculum Frameworks

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RIDE must institute a process to develop curriculum frameworks for the core subjects and to review and update the frameworks every four years thereafter. Curriculum frameworks provide LEA leaders and teachers with information about the state's standards, as well as guidance to implement standards and inform teacher practice.

To achieve this goal, RIDE has:

- Reviewed how other states define and develop curriculum frameworks;
- Partnered with our Regional Comprehensive Center to conduct a coherence analysis across existing documents in order to create a framework template for all content areas; and
- Initiated the standards revision process to confirm standards for inclusion in the frameworks.

Moving forward, RIDE will:

- Finalize the components of what tools are included in curriculum frameworks;
- Develop a template for writing all curriculum frameworks;
- Complete the coherence analysis across content areas and the multilingual learner blueprint;
- Write and publish initial curriculum frameworks; and
- Continue to build and revise frameworks.

# Curriculum Lists

RIDE must establish a review process for reviewing and identifying curriculum and materials. By January 2021, it must identify at least five examples of high-quality curriculum and materials for each core subject, and publish a public list from which LEAs will select materials to adopt.

To date, RIDE has:

- Developed a selection process that utilizes independent nationally recognized reviews;
- Published toolkits to complement national reviews and consider more deeply: supports for multilingual learners, foundational literacy skills, and culturally responsive and sustaining education;
- Continued the process to identify updates for the next release to ensure only high-quality materials are adopted.
- Published the [Curriculum Visualization Tool](#)

Content Area	Initial List Released	Updated List(s) Released	Required LEA Adoption
Mathematics	June 2020	January 2021	June 30, 2023
English Language Arts	June 2020	January 2021	June 30, 2023
Science	June 2021	January 2022	June 30, 2025

# Statewide Snapshot

## ELA High Quality Curriculum Adoption

## Math High Quality Curriculum Adoption

Elementary School  
(Grades K-5)



**40%**  
19 of 48 LEAs



**75%**  
36 of 48 LEAs

Middle School  
(Grades 6-8)



**38%**  
17 of 45 LEAs



**40%**  
18 of 45 LEAs

High School  
(Grades 9-12)



**22%**  
10 of 46 LEAs



**37%**  
17 of 46 LEAs



**RIDE**

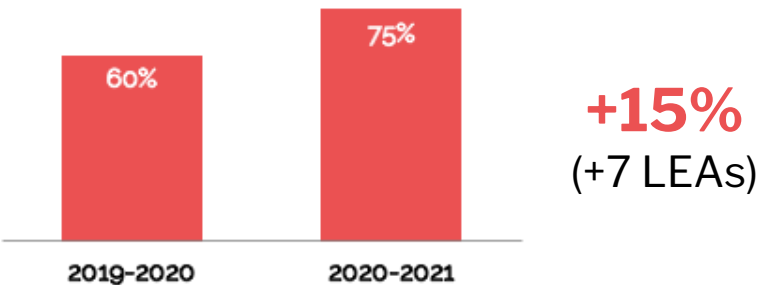
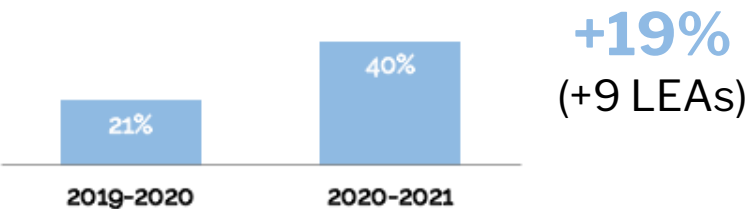
Rhode Island  
Department  
of Education

# Statewide Snapshot: Trends Year to Year

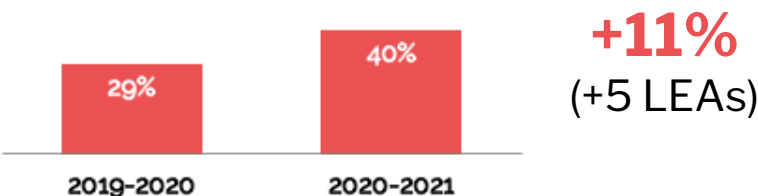
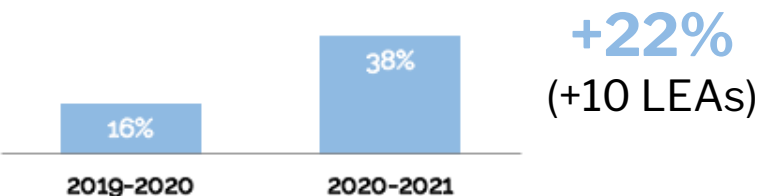
ELA High Quality Curriculum Adoption

Math High Quality Curriculum Adoption

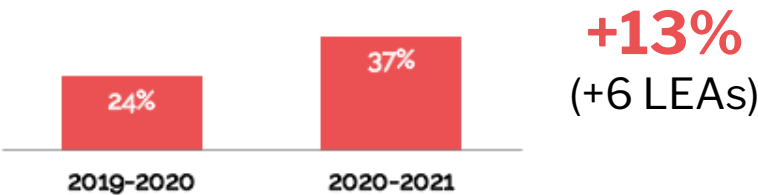
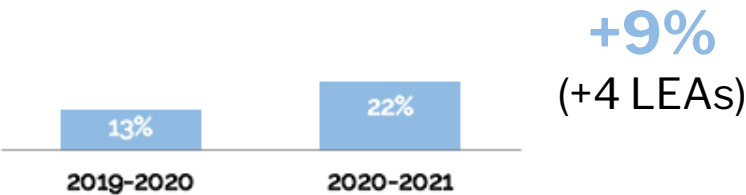
Elementary School  
(Grades K-5)



Middle School  
(Grades 6-8)



High School  
(Grades 9-12)



# Next Steps

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In order to achieve the goals outlined in legislation and implement high-quality curricular materials with fidelity, RIDE will:

- **Ensure alignment with the most up-to-date learning standards and curriculum frameworks.** As the state undergoes its regular standards review and revision process, as well as develops new social studies learning standards, it will ensure full alignment to guidance regarding the implementation of high-quality curricular materials.
- **Continue to evolve its professional development vendor guide.** On February 1, RIDE unveiled its new-and-improved Educator Course Network (ECN). The ECN is now more user-friendly and includes partners that have the expertise to offer professional learning aligned to high-quality curricular materials. Additional partners will be added over time.
- **Incentivize the use of high-quality curricular materials.** RIDE is prioritizing \$20M to support the adoption and implementation of HQCM, including aligned professional learning. This spring, RIDE will also unlock an additional \$19M in funding to support LEAs not just adopt, but implement HQCM at scale, via a competitive application process.



# Next Steps

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- **Pair school systems with trusted partners that can provide support.** Local and national partners can help build capacity at the local level by providing aligned professional development to educators, developing and utilizing an observation tool to monitor implementation progress, and creating leadership pipelines for classroom teachers.
- **Continuously collaborate with school leaders and educators to ensure smooth implementation.** RIDE will regularly collect school and school system curriculum data; develop and utilize a common classroom observation tool; and issue anonymous educator surveys to measure and understand implementation in the field. RIDE will review findings, reflect on progress, and shift as needed.
- **Engage the public in the implementation process.** RIDE will continue to emphasize the importance of implementing high-quality curricular materials and engage the public in the process through regular communication. RIDE will also explore adding information about each school system's progress on its parent-facing annual school report card.

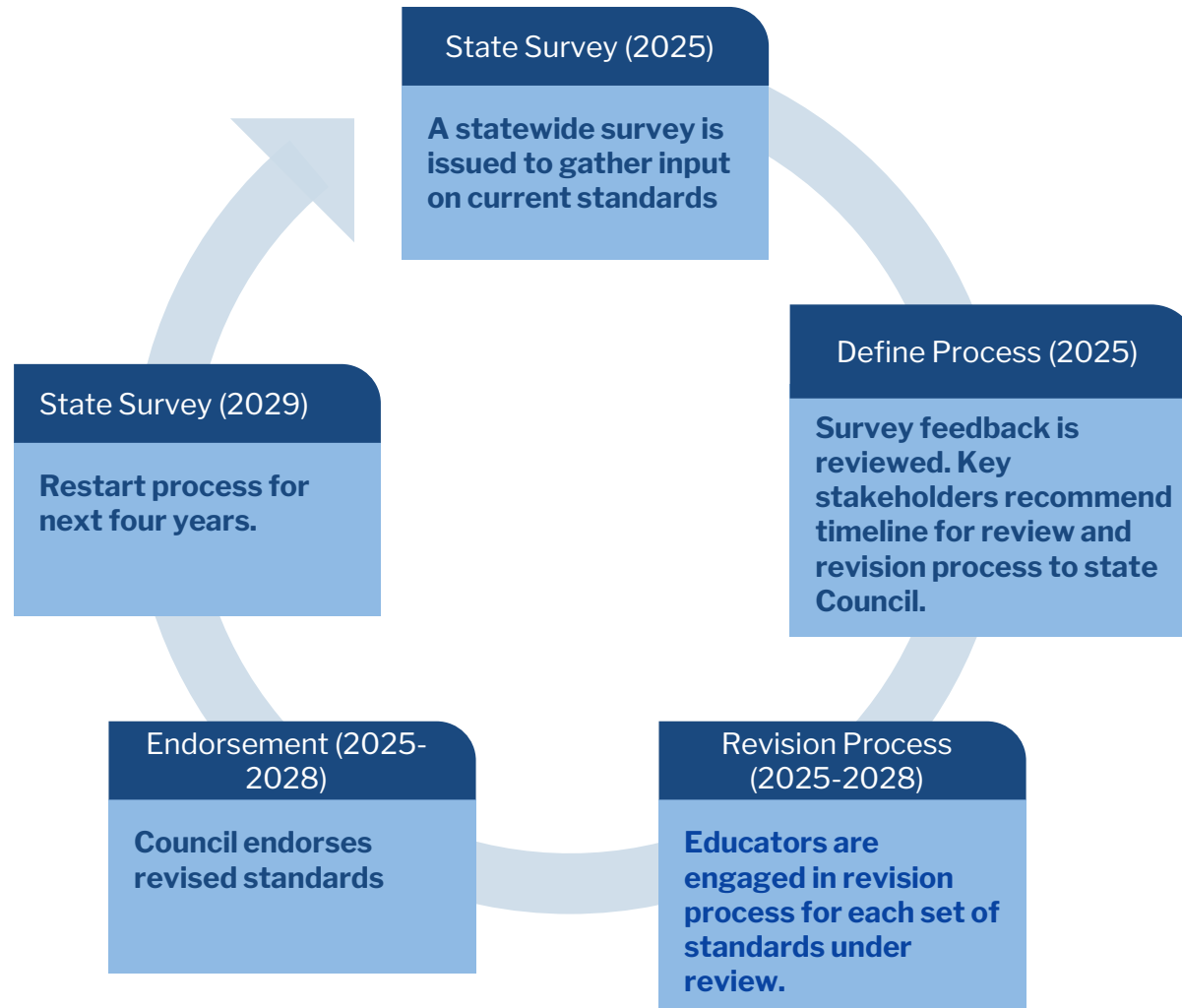




# Appendix



# Standards Review Four-Year Cycle



# Standards Revision Process Principles

RIDE follows these principles ensure an open and consultative process for standards revision every four years:



**Driven by professional Rhode Island educators**



**Consistency across all content areas.**



**Focus on the substance of standards**



**Improve what exists today rather than start from scratch**



**Alignment with state assessments and curriculum**



**Public input on every standard**

# Defining High-Quality Curriculum

RIDE defines curriculum as:

- A standards-based sequence of planned experiences where students practice and achieve proficiency in content and applied learning skills.
- What is essential for teaching and learning so that every student has access to rigorous academic experiences.
- The necessary goals, methods, materials, and assessments to effectively support instruction and learning.

RIDE considers curriculum to be “high-quality” if it meets the requirements outlined in the quality checklist (right).



**Alignment to grade-level content standards**



**Instructional expectations, supports and usability**



**Cultural responsiveness and representation of student identities**



**Addresses the needs of multilingual learners and differently abled students**



**Addresses foundational literacy skills (PK-2 literacy only)**